

To: CN=Gilberto Irizarry/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Mark Mjoness/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dana Tulis/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Larry Stanton/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Mark Mjoness/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dana Tulis/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Larry Stanton/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Dana Tulis/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Larry Stanton/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Larry Stanton/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Cc: CN=Kim Jennings/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
From: CN=Craig Matthiessen/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Fri 5/18/2012 12:28:03 PM
Subject: FYI - Industry Says EPA Report Linking Fracking To Wyoming Water Pollution a 'Poor Study'
Tripp Baltz
said
86 DEN A-11, 5/4/12
Tripp Baltz
https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/IPAA_comm/attach/PavillionReport2012.pdf

From BNA:

Drilling
 Industry Says EPA Report Linking Fracking
 To Wyoming Water Pollution a 'Poor Study'

By Tripp Baltz

DENVER—Data and analysis do not support the Environmental Protection Agency's draft report linking groundwater contamination in Pavillion, Wyo., to hydraulic fracturing, the Independent Petroleum Association of America said May 16.

"Through this review [of EPA's draft], the science speaks for itself," said Lee Fuller, IPAA vice president of government relations. "Unfortunately, the EPA has continued to miss the mark with its draft report."

IPAA commissioned a review of the EPA draft report on Pavillion, which was released Dec. 8 and stated that groundwater contamination was "likely associated with gas production practices, including hydraulic fracturing" (86 DEN A-11, 5/4/12).

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves the high-pressure injection of water, sand, and chemicals into shale rock formations deep underground to release oil and natural gas.

The review, conducted by S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates, a groundwater and hydrogeology consulting firm, found that the data and analysis from Pavillion do not support EPA's "primary claim of contamination caused by hydraulic fracturing activity," IPAA said.

The review also said EPA employed "unapproved analytical methods," "improperly conducted various field procedures," and "misinterpreted data used to draw conclusions." EPA's "lines of evidence" can be adequately explained with alternative hypotheses, the review said.

EPA Urged to Work With Wyoming, USGS

IPAA called on EPA to work with Wyoming and the U.S. Geological Survey, among other stakeholders, to re-examine two EPA monitoring wells at the site for their suitability to the study's objectives.

EPA should “credibly investigate likely sources of potential constituents of concern while adopting strict scientific standards and avoiding guesswork,” IPAA said.

“It is our hope that this study's flaws will challenge and guide the agency toward better methodology and reporting in the future,” the association said.

Julia Bell, spokeswoman for IPAA, told BNA May 17 the review will be submitted to EPA as part of technical and public comments the agency is accepting on the Pavillion report through October.

By Tripp Baltz

For More Information

The IPAA report, Review of U.S. EPA's December 2011 Draft Report: “Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming,” is available at https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/IPAA_comm/attach/PavillionReport2012.pdf.